# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Glorious Condition of the Country.

OUR FINANCES ON A GOOD FOOTING.

Recommendation to Fund the National Debt.

Reconstruction Progressing Favorably Except in Georgia.

er Foreign Relations Satisfactory-Recognition of Cuban Belligerency Not Advised.

ng before you for the first time as Oh of this great nation it is with gratituer of all good for the many benefits are blessed with peace at home and entanging alliances abroad to forbode with a territory unsurpassed in fertility, ca equal to the abundant support of five millions of people and abounding in tricty of useful minerals, in quantity sumply the world for generations; s; with a variety of climate ada of every species of earth's riches and ne habits, tastes and requirements of living thing; with a population of forty mil of free people, all speaking one language facilities for every mortal to acquire ducation; with institutions closing to none the avenues of fame or any bless-ing of fortune that may be coveted; with freedom of the pulpit, the press and the school; with a revenue flowing into the national Treasury nd the requirements of the government. Hap-harmony is being speedily restored within our borders. Manufactures hitherto unknown in rders. Manufactures hitherto unknown in stry are springing up in all directions, procountless ethers are entrusted to your care and nine for safe keeping for the brief period of our tenure of office. In a short time we must each of us return to the ranks of the people who have conon us our honors and account to them for our stewardship. I earnestly desire that neither you nor I may be condemned by a free and enlighter constituency nor by our consciences.

PROGRESS OF RECONSTRUCTION.
orging from a rebellion of gigantic magnitude, ded as it was by the sympathy and assistance of nations with which we were at peace, eleven States of the Union were four years ago left without legal State government; a national debt had been con-tracted, American commerce was almost driven from the seas; the industry of one half of the counrom the seas; the industry of one half of the control ry had been taken from the control of the capitalist and placed where all labor rightfully belongs, in the deeping of the laborer. The work of restoring State overnments loyal to the Union, of protecting and rents loyal to the Union, or free labor, and providing means for the interest on the public debt, has the interest on from Congress. Although received ample attention from Congress. Jour efforts have not met with the articulars that might have been desired, the whole, they have been more pated. Seven States which passed ordinances of secession have been fully restored to their places in the Union, the eighth (Georgia) held an election, at state Legislature and all other officers required. The and performed all the acts then required of them by the reconstruction acts of Congress. Subsequently, er, in violation of the constitution which they Just ratified, as since decided by the me Court of the State, they unseated lored members of the Legislature and admitted to seats some members who are disqualified by the third clause of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution—an article which they themselves had contributed to ratify. Under these circumstances I id submit to you whether it would not be wise, tout delay, to enact a law authorizing the Gover of Georgia to convene the members originally ted to the Legislature, requiring each member to

The means provided for paying the interest on the

ment, are more than ample.

The loss of our commerce is the only result of the

ment, are more than ample.

The loss of our commerce is the only result of the late rebeliton which has not received sufficient attention from you. To this subject I call your earnest attention. I will not now suggest plans by which this object may be effected, but will, if necessary, make it the subject of a special message during the session of Congress.

THE ELECTIONS IN VIRGINIA, MISSISSIPPI AND TEXAS.

At the March term Congress by joint resolution authorized the Executive to order elections in the States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas, to submit to them the constitutions which each had previously in convention framed, and submit the constitutions either entire or in separate parts to be voted upon, at the discretion of the Executive Under this authority elections were called. In Virginia the election took place on the 6th of July, 1890; the Governor and Lieutenant Governor elected have been installed; the Legislature met and did all required by this resolution and by all the reconstruction acts of Congress, and abstanted from all doubtful authority. I recommend that her Senators and Representatives be admitted to their seems in Congress, and that the State be fully restored to its place in the family of States. Elections were called in Mississippi and Texas, to commence on the soth of November, 1889, and to last two days in Mississippi and four days in Texas.

The elections have called that the acts of soil the thown. It is to be hoped that the acts of

Texas the elections have taxen place, but the result is not known. It is to be hoped that the acts of the Legislatures of these States, when they meet, will be such as to receive your approval and thus

will be such as to receive your approval and thus close the work of reconstruction.

THE CURRENCY.

Among the evils growing out of the rebellion and not yet referred to is that of an irredeemable currency. It is an evil which I hope will receive your most earnest attention. It is a duty and one of the highest duties of government to secure to the citizens a medium of exchange of fixed, unvarying value. This implies a return to a specie basis, and no substitute for it can be devised. It should be commenced now and reached at the earliest practicable moment consistent with a fair regard to the interests of the debtor class. Immediate resumption, if practicable, would not be desirable, it would compel the debtor class to pay beyond their contracts the premium on gold at the date of their purchase and would bring bankruptcy and ruin to thousands. Fluctuation, however, in the paper value of the measure of all values, gold, is detrimental to the interests of trade. It makes the man of business an involuntary gambler, for in all sales where future payment is to be made both parties speculate as to what will be the value of the currency to be paid and received. I earnestly recommend to you, then, such legislation as will finance a gradual return to specie payments and put an immediate stop to fluctuations in the value of currency. The methods to secure the former of these are as numerous as are the speculations on political economy. To secure the laster I see but one, and that is to authorize the Treasury to redeem its own paper

seli-control. In the determination of their sturies condition and relations with other Fowers the United States, in order or put a stop to bloodhed in Cube, and the theorem of a neighbor the people, proposed their fine theorem of a neighbor the people, proposed their fine theorem of the people, proposed their fine the people of the states which we relate the people of the states and yet prove advantageous for the settlement of this unhappy strife. Meanwhile a number of lilegal expeditions against Cube have been broken up, it has been the endeavor of the administration to execute the neutrality laws in good faith, no matter how unpleasant the Lask, made so by the suffering we have andured from lack of like good faith towards us by other nations.

On the 26th of March last the United States schooner Lizzie Major was arrested on the high seas by a Spanish irigate and two passengers were set at hiserty, and the Spanish government as soon as smitcent information of them reached Washington. The two passengers were set at hiserty, and the Spanish government as soon as smitcent information of them reached Washington. The two passengers were set at hiserty, and the Spanish government as soon as smitcent information of them reached Washington. The two passengers were set at hiserty, and the Spanish government as soon as smitcent information of them reached washington. The two passengers were set at liberty, and the Spanish government as soon as smitcent information of them reached washington. The two passengers were set at liberty, and the Spanish authorities in Cuba would not sanction any act that could violate the rights of the safety of

duces their citizens to come to the United States for the soile purpose of being naturalized. Having secured this they return to their native country and reside there without disclosing this change of allegiance. They accept omical positions of trust or honor which can only be held by citizens of their native land. They journey under passports describing them as citizens still; and it is only when civil discord, after years, perhaps, of quiet, threatens their persons or their property, or when their native Sage drafts into its military service, tust the fact of their change of allegiance is made known. They reside permanently away from the United States, they contribute nothing to its revenues, they avoid the duties of its citizenship, and they only make themselves known by a claim of protection. I have directed the diplomaticand consular officers of the United States, whether native or adopted, is cuttioned to be only perfect to according to the United States, whether native or adopted, is cuttioned to be only perfect to according to the United States, whether native or adopted, is cuttioned to be only perfect to according to the cuttion of the order perfect to a convention of consent to imperit the saccerd right by conferring it upon fictitions or fraudulent claimants. On the accession of the present administration it was found that the Minister for North Germany had made propositions for the negotiation of a convention for the protection of onigrant passengers, to which no response had been given. It was concluded that to be effectual all the maritime Powers engaged in the trade should join in such a measure, lavitations have been extended to the Cabinets of London, Paris, Florence, Berlin, Brussels, the Hague, Copenhagen and Stockholm to empower their representatives at Washington to simultaneously enter into negotiations and to conclude with the United States conventions kentical in form. making uniform regulations as to the quality and quantity of lood; as to the mild to the construction of the parts of v

prove ineffective or hard amprove ineffective or hard and probably all the more required, not be obtained by special legislat regarded as fixed by the constitution and application of public seguiles and by force of public seguiles and public seguiles.

tion of the Facilit of the sale of the seal slands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska Territory, and suggest that it either be compiled with or that legislation be had for the protection of the seal fisheries, from which a revenue abould be derived. The report of the heads of bureaus, of the commanders of the heads of bureaus, of the commanders of mititary divisions and the districts of Virginia, Mississippi and Texus, and the report of the General of the Army in full. The recommendations therein contained have been well considered, and are submitted for your action. I, however, oal special attention to the recommendation of the Chero of Ordnauce for the sale of arsemais and lands no longer of use to the government; also to the recommendation of the Secretary of War that the act of the Sol of March, 1869, prohibiting promotions and appointments on the staff corps of the army, be repeated. The extent of the country to be garrisoned and the number of military posts to be occupied is the same with a reduced army as with a large our. The number of staff officers required is more dependent upon the latter than the former condition.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, accompanying this, shows the condition of the navy when this administration came into office and the changes made since. Streamous efforts have been made to place as many vesseus in commission or render them it for service if required as possible and to suostitute the sali for steam while ordinary tims materially reducing the expenses of the navy and adding greatly to its efficiency. Looking to our future, free ordinary to the Post office of the Post office of the Post office of the prevenues for 1869 over receipts for the previous year amounted to \$13,457,659. The increase of expenditures over receipts for the previous year amounted to \$13,459,659. The increase of expenditures over receipts for the previous year amounted to \$13,459,659. The increase of revenue in 1869 exceeded the increase of expenditures over receipts for the previous year annou

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE.

Passage of a Recolution Favoring Impro-ments in Western Rivers and Southe Harbors-Report of the Committee on a Recommittee of Specie Payments.

Reenmption of Specie Payments.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 6, 1869.

At the session of the National Board of Trade today delegates from the Louisville Board was
received. The Executive Council recommended Suffalo, N. Y., as the next place of meeting. Hamilton

Mississippi rivers reported resolutions asking Con gress to make appropriations for the removal of the obstructions to navigation in those rivers, especiall at the mouth of the Onio, and the rapids is Note Island and Des Moines, and to provide that the bridges over the Ohio should have one apan 400 feet long, and the bridges over the Mississippi, above the mouth of the Missouri, one span 300 feet long, and all so elevated as not to obstruct navigation, and that plers of these bridges be located by the government engineers. The report was amended so as to leave out the clause fixing the length of the spans and so as to ask Congress to improve the harbors of Mobile, Richmond, Savannan and Charleston, and then adonted by a vote of aves 80, navs 8.

The twenty-eight proposition, urging the revision of the tariff and revenue laws so as to render them harmonious with each other, just to every class of the community and to each state in all their provisions, was unanimously adopted.

The thirtieth proposition, recommending a repeal of the law condemning vessels to confiscation for the acts of the officers, crew or passengers, which are beyond the control of the captain or owners, was adopted.

The thirty-first proposition in favor of uniformity of coinage among the commercial nations of the world was adopted.

The recommendation of last year for the passage of the Civil Service bill was renewed.

A resolution was offered by Mr. WALERIDGE endorsing the National Exposition to be held at Washington in 1871, which was adopted.

A tribute of respect to the memory of George Peabody was adopted.

Buffalo, N. Y., was fixed as the next place of meeting, and the first Wednesday of December next as the time.

The Board adopted resolutions of thanks to President Fraiety for the able manner of presiding, and to the citizens of Richmond for their hospitality; and the Convention then adjourned sine die, with three cheers for Richmond.

## SAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

The United States steamer Severn arrived at Nor-The United States steamer Severn arrived at Nor-folk. Va., recently, having in tow the ship Pawnee, which is to relieve the New Hampshire as a receiv-ing ship at Norfolk. The Severn sailed at ten o'clock A. M. on Sunday for the West India station, where she will relieve the Pownatan, as flagship of Rear Admirsi Charles H. Poor. The following is a list of the officers of the Severn:— Commander—R. B. Lowery. Lieutenant Commanders—N. H. Farquhar, G. K. Hawwell and D. U. Woodrow. Lieutenants—J. E. Noell, E. L. Armory and E. S. Houston.

Lescendin Commonwers—N. H. Farquar, G. E. Haswell and D. C. Woodrow.

Licutemants—J. E. Noell, E. L. Armory and E. S. Houston.

Masters—E. H. Vail, W. W. Kilpatrick.

Fleet Paymaster—Edwin Forster.

Chaplain—M. C. Brittain.

M. J. Babin; Assistant Surgeon, E. C. Dunning.

Fleet Enginer—Thomas Williamson; First Assistant, I. J. Basert; Second Assistant, R. R. Hime.

Captain of Marines—J. H. Baker.

Second Leiutemant of Harines—A. H. O'Brien.

Commander's Cierk—Beorge Baker.

Mates—P. H. Poole, E. F. Meyers, A. E. Bateman,

G. M. Powers and J. L. Plankott.

Boatswain—A. W. Pomeroy.

Gunner—R. H. Cross.

Carpenter—W. Barnard.

Satimaker—J. C. Chevalier.

The Pawnee passed up to Norfolk on Sunday under sail, and upon relieving the New Hampshire it is understood that that vesset will proceed to Portsmouth, N. H., as receiving ship at that station.

## - SALE OF OIL PAINTINGS.

Last evening the sale of oil paintings at the Somerville Gallery was, owing to the inclement state of the weather, rather poorly attended, and the consequence, of course, was that the pictures sold did not bring very high prices. After the anctioner had spent an hour in vain endeavors to infuse a little life into the few bidders who had come to the sale despite the storm, the following high priced pictures were knocked down at the following prices:—"View on the lindson," C. H. Moore, \$13; "The Tollet." Professor Edward Hamman, \$25; "Master and Maid," C. Bochem, \$155; "Shakspeare at the Court of Queen Elizabeth," Zacharle Noterman, \$85; "The Savoyard Girl," Marchus, \$70; "Mosmight," H. Herzog, \$70; "Playing Marches," J. A. Aubray, \$65; "October Days," A. F. Tatt, \$125; "The Mother's Care," Paul Seignac, \$85; "Grandmother's Help." companion, \$65; "Waite Mountains from Saco 1700;" Edmund, \$65; "The Arabin Nights," George F. Hemeil, \$100; "Grandmother's Portrait," Lanfant de Meta, \$67 60; "The New Toy," companion, \$37, 50; "Clearing the Fields, some in Thuringis," J. N. T. Van Stackenborg, \$90. There were several other pictures which brought very low prices.

### TREASURY DEPARTMENT

#### Report of Secretary George S. Boutwell.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 6, 1869. I have the honor to submit herewith the annual report of the doings and condition of the Treasury Department. In this report I naturally treat first the matters of administration and their measures of public policy. The officers in charge of the various bureaus and divisions of the Treasury Department have faithfully performed their duties, and I compand that several property that the consideration of mend their several reports to the consideration Congress. The Treasurer of the United States h prepared an elaborate report, setting forth the pr sent condition of the Treasury, and furnishing a sume of the business of the Treasurer's office iro vices of the present Treasurer entitle him to the gratitude of the country.

laws must be found in the administration of tappraiser's department. The frauds and losses arisi from setual smuggling are unimportant when oo pared with the losses sustained through incompete or dishonest examiners and appraisers. Assumithat honest men may be obtained for these imputant positions at the present salaries, it is yet that an incompetent appraiser or examiner midally subject the government to losses far exceeding amount of his salary. Under existing laws of tain revenue officers and other persons appears as informers are entitled to shares in fines, penalties. as informers are entitled to shares in fines, pens and forfeitures. During the fiscal year 1800-9 Treasury Department distributed the sum of \$230 to such officers and to informers in the var cases arising under the customs and revenue in the var cases arising under the customs and revenue in the var cases arising under the customs and revenue in the var cases arising under the customs and revenue in the var cases arising under the customs and revenue in the var cases arising under the customs and revenue of the variation of the Internal revenue office. The reason on whi-laws granting such allowances are base that officers of the government are lated to greater activity in the dis-of frauds and in bringing offenders to punish There can be no doubt that such is the off policy; but the experience I have had in the Tree Department has convinced me that the evils at which have no just foundation in law or facts of the respective cases, and real claims exist it is often the of the informer and officers who a

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department.

CLERICAL FORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

In March last there was employed in the Trens
Department at Washington 2,848 clerks, messeen
and laborers at a monthly cost of \$239,921. At 3
sent the whole number of such employes is 2,4
and their monthly pay amounts to \$238,280, show
a decrease of expenses at the rate of \$571,688
annum. It was found necessary, however, dur
the periods mentioned to increase the force in
internal revenue office and in the office of the
Comptroller. This increase, in the aggregate, is Comptroller. This increase, in the the rate of \$80,446 per annum. This not relate to the force employed in Engraving and Printing.

In March last there were sixty-two special agents. In March last there were sixty-two special agents in the service of the department, receiving in the aggregate for their services the sum of \$371 per day. Each of these agents made his reports to the department and acted under its direct orders. The number at present employed is fifty-four, and their daily pay amounts to \$385. The pay of the agents had used increased generally, in the hope that more

Each of these agents made his reports to the department and acted under its direct orders. The inniber at present employed is fifty-four, and their daily pay amounts to \$368. The pay of the agents has been increased generally, in the hope that more efficient services might be obtained. The seasons and frontiers of the country have been divided into sixteen special agency districts and a superintendent appointed for each. Assistants have been appointed and defailed to act under the several district agents. The orders of the department are in all cases sent to the agent in charge of the district, and the reports of als assistants are made to him. The agent is required to make a monthly report of his own doings and of the doings of his subordinates. The results thus far obtained ap pear to justify the organization introduced.

THE MANUFACTURE OF "GOVERNMENT PAPER."

Arrangements have been made for the manufacture of paper for the currency and other obligations of the United States and for the printing of the government against unlawful issues from the geuine plates. Under the eleventh section of an act approved June 30, 1864, entitled "An act to provide ways and means for the support of the government and for other purposes," a peculiar paper has been designated as "the government paper," and by that act it is made a folony for any person to have or retain in his possession any similar paper eadapted to the making of any obligation or security of the United States, except under the authority of the Secretary of the manufacture of this paper by Messra. Wilcox & Co., near Philadelphia, and the mills, owned by them, which are exclusively devoted to this purpose, have been placed under the supervision of the officers of the government, and such precently of the manufactured can be obtained by dishonest means. It is received by an agent of the government, such each of the two companies mentioned for preparing one set of plates for every size of currency or there obligations. The Engagening and Frinting Bureau of the Tr

pancies were touch and the money value of which the companies doing the work are responsible.

It is believed that these arrangements furnish better security than has heretefore existed against the fraudulent issue of currency or other obligations of the government by the use of the original dies or plates, and the system of the irrequent examinations of the several establishments entrusted with the work will desclose at once any discrepancies in the accounts. It is not probable that the changes made will diminish the expense; indeed, the cost is greater than it would be if the work in all its branches were done in the Treasury Department. In my judgment, however, the additional security is of more consequence to the government than the mere economy of money in the expense of engraving and printing.

THE MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE